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The Collegian

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Remembering a tragedy, looking to the future

Catalina Torres honored in annual awareness event after losing her life to domestic violence

BY HOLLAND ENKE
STAFF WRITER

Though many of the attendees of last Tuesday's event "Catalina Torres Night to Remember" never met the amazing young woman to whom the night was dedicated, it was clear that her remarkable life has left a lasting and inspiring impression on all who attended. The event, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and Hermanas Unidas, and supported by the Mission and Ministry Center and the Office of Community Life, remained the emotionally charged and beautifully uplifting event it originally was six years ago. The night was marked by a mix of remembrance for the beautiful spirit of Catalina, who was tragically murdered while coming to the aid of a friend involved in a domestically abusive relationship, and a dialogue centered on the awareness of the epidemic of domestic violence in the United States.

The night started with a star-



(Andrew Nguyen/COLLEGIAN)

ting fact: one in four women, and one in nine men, will experience domestic abuse. This egregiously large statistic confirmed the necessity of nights like this. One speaker, a Saint Mary's alumnus and motivational speaker on the topic of domestic violence, emphasized the need to talk about this issue. When someone does

not stand up against abuse, it makes it seem like it is okay in our culture, which causes the cycle of violence to never end. Catalina Torres, however, was an open speaker against domestic violence. As her former professors and friends shared, Catalina was active in all things related to social justice and truly lived for

the destruction of inequalities.

This dedication to others was made clear from everyone who spoke of Catalina's generosity. As Liliana Campos, one of the head coordinators of the event, stated, "This is such a touching event. I can't help but wish I had met [Catalina]." By the end see **TORRES**, page 3

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This Halloween, do you know what you're afraid of?



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Miley is just being Miley, and that's okay



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Former Gael Doug Herrick joins Seattle Sounders

Saint Mary's rethinking healthcare for faculty and staff

BY WILLIAM LANE
STAFF WRITER

In a small, relatively nondescript bulletin on its website, Saint Mary's College announced on Oct. 14 that it is reviewing its healthcare coverage of "elective abortions" for its faculty and staff, citing recent developments in other Catholic colleges in the state. The decision, published online without too many details, came one week after two other California Catholic colleges, Loyola Marymount University and Santa Clara University, announced that they would no longer provide coverage for elective abortions by faculty members. Those colleges in turn cited questions of religious identity. In the former's case, employees who want elective abortions will be offered a separate, more expensive plan. "In light of these developments," the Saint Mary's announcement stated, "the College is reviewing the essential benefits requirement under California law and the options offered by our health care providers."

The chain of coverage changes was arguably enabled by a shift in the Colleges' insurance companies' interpretations of California healthcare law, which mandates access to medically necessary abortions. For years, the healthcare provider for Loyola Marymount and Santa Clara, Anthem Blue Cross, insisted that access to voluntary abortions could not be differentiated from "necessary" ones, but it changed this policy back in September. Saint Mary's College's healthcare provid-

see **HEALTHCARE**, page 3

Saint Mary's Museum of Art exhibits artists' portraits

Both contemporary and classic art styles mix to create a diverse atmosphere

BY TORI STRINGER
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

The Saint Mary's Museum of Art has just opened its new exhibit, "The Artist Revealed: Artist Portraits and Self-Portraits." The exhibit features a diverse collection of artists' perceptions of themselves. From black and white sketches to sculptures and more abstract paintings alive with color, the exhibit reveals the uniqueness of self-image.

The museum's website describes how, "While commissioned portraits often include expectations that the image be a favorable likeness of the sitter, this exhibition illustrates that self-portraits are an artist's opportunity to make a statement." This new exhibit is the first one guests encounter as they enter the museum, and it certainly does make a statement. The amount of pieces used in the exhibit, coupled with the diversity in style — from photograph to painting — make for an exhibit you could visit a dozen times and always see something new you missed the last time. Bridget Hanna, a student worker in the museum, mentions how she "particularly love[s] the bust of

James Joyce and the black and white photograph of an out-of-makeup Charlie Chaplin. These pieces are a collaboration of the different ways people can interpret themselves and the people around them through their art."

As one continues through the museum, the next exhibit is the William Keith "Nature's Tranquil Splendor" collection. The museum has William Keith's artwork on display permanently, whereas the previous collection included paintings that celebrated local sites, this collection focuses more on expansive mountain vistas.

The presence of photographs give many of the exhibits a more contemporary feel, while the classic paintings like Keith's allow for a more classic feel.

These paintings feel much simpler and seek to capture the large, natural landscapes

that are hard to find now that it seems every inch of land must be covered with buildings and businesses. The simplicity in these paintings is almost entrancing and calming, and the continuity in all the paintings brings a nice change from the diversity of the first exhibit.

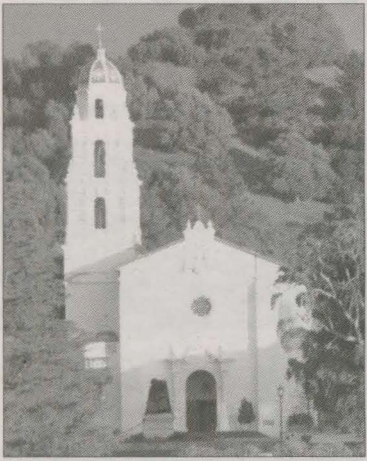
The third exhibit in the museum is "Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape." It features 25 color and black and white photographs of vintage cars. The pictures feel like a trip in a time machine, as they span 40 years of automotive history. Lubliner is quoted on the wall above some of his photographs as saying, "I'm pretty sure [cars] are vain and like to have their pictures taken." Since this exhibit is completely photographs, it is very different from what is normally seen in the museum and is a refreshing break after the Keith paintings.

In the back room, "Judy Dater: Edo Redux" displays the photography of Judy Dater, who came to speak in the Soda Center on Oct. 20 for the exhibit's opening. The museum's website quotes her describing her work: "People tend to reveal themselves to the camera and express something about them-

selves, perhaps even something hidden from themselves." Her work speaks to this. Many of the images seem raw and candid, yet reveal so much about the person photographed. One in particular shows a woman looking upset on the phone, while a billboard behind her shows a happy couple. This juxtaposition of emotions only amplifies the woman's sadness. Other pictures are simpler, like one of a Torii (Japanese gate) surrounded by water. Dater's collection in itself is extremely diverse in its subjects; however, the clear Asian influence provides the cohesive element between the pieces.

All of the new exhibits flow very well together and provide the museum with a real diverse collection. The presence of photographs give many of the exhibits a more contemporary feel, while the classic paintings like Keith's allow for a more classic feel. The museum is packed with many interesting pieces that should be seen before the exhibits are changed again. Entry to the museum is free to students and visiting is a great way to take a break from the day and enjoy artistry and creativity, and maybe even find inspiration.

THE INSIDE PAGE



The Collegian

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*"To act upon one's convictions
while others wait.
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people
when it wasn't available before,
To offer those who want it,
a choice—"*

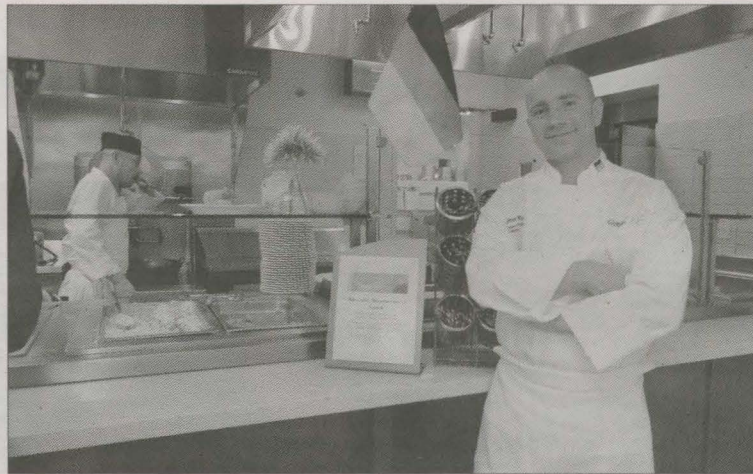
—TED TURNER

Chef Andreas Walter debuts German cuisine in Oliver Hall

BY BRIDGET HANNA
STAFF WRITER

As many may know, Saint Mary's Oliver Hall food is served by the international food company Sodexo. Despite the dreaded college cafeteria horror stories, Sodexo has been pulling out all the stops at schools across the nation in attempts to bring a bit of authentic food from countries such as Chile, Brazil, South Africa, and Germany. On Oct. 22 this plan was put into place as visiting Chef Andreas Walter worked with the Oliver Hall staff to whip up some German meals for the students and faculty. Chef Walter has been on a tour with his food across the West Coast, going from Idaho to Washington, and will continue on his tour after he leaves Saint Mary's, heading for Thousand Oaks and Los Angeles.

Andreas Walter began his culinary career in 1999, spending his years working for hotels, the military, and Sodexo. He has been with Sodexo since 2004 and is stationed in his home country of Germany, working with two high-profile cli-



(Andrew Nguyen/COLLEGIAN)

ents, including one telecommunications company. Generally, he said he prepares enough food to feed about 1200 people breakfast and lunch, so coming to a small campus like Saint Mary's doesn't seem to have given him much of a challenge, especially with the helping hands of the Oliver Hall staff. What was interesting to note was how little time he had to prepare for his visit to the States, having been given only two weeks' notice of the tour he was going to be showcased on.

Walter brought 20 recipes with him when he came from Germany, choosing and adapting which recipes would be used at every stop along the way. For Saint Mary's, there was pumpkin soup with orange and ginger, cabbage rolls stuffed with pork and mushrooms, Waldorf salad complete with tart green apples and endives, and roast beef, served with a side of creamy mashed potatoes studded with bits of bacon. At each school he visited, Walter would demonstrate how

to make his food, and then let the others chefs taste it. By learning his methods for preparation, the kitchen staff would then incorporate these with their own techniques to adapt to the new recipes Walter brought.

Although Oliver Hall does hold an all ages accepted Oktoberfest every year, the chance to experience more authentic German food was welcomed by the students. The "Waldorfsalatschiffen" was exceedingly well-composed for an Oliver Hall salad, balancing between the tangy dressing and the tartness of the apples with whole walnuts and sweet cranberries. The "Wirsing-kohlroutade auf Schmorkraut," or the Savoy Roulade with Stewed Cabbage, garnered the appreciation of several students, who all agreed that it surprised them with just how tasty it was.

The chance to chow down on international cuisine is an excellent way to experience culture without having to travel, and this foray into the Germanic world will be sure to sway some students to try a little more diversity in their meals.

Dismantling stereotypes, one story and experience at a time

Panel event encourages Sikh and Muslim students to speak against aggression

BY JENCY JAMES
STAFF WRITER

The 9/11 attack was one of great heartbreak and sorrow in U.S. history. In the years following the tragedy, much emphasis has been placed on the nearly 3,000 casualties and their loved ones. Another group also found their lives drastically changed from the impact of 9/11, but their struggle has been less realized and acknowledged.

The Saint Mary's Interfaith Council hosted the "Sikhs, Muslims, and the War on Terror" panel event to share the perspective of Sikhs and Muslims who encountered hatred in the aftermath of 9/11. "We understand the importance of remembering not only the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, but those who have experienced terrorism and discrimination against their faith group," sophomore Cabrilla McGinn, Interfaith Intern

and event organizer said. The event brought together a panel of Sikh and Muslim students from both Saint Mary's and the UC Berkeley Sikh and Muslim Association to foster discussion amongst a packed room of audience members. The panelists included Saint Mary's students Radha Sampley and Tasneem Mohamed and Berkeley students, Taliah Mirmalek, Gurleen Kaur, Harjit Singh, Waseem Salahi.

Singh and Mirmalek opened the event by giving a general overview of Sikhism and Islam and explaining tenets of each belief system. For instance, many are aware of the Islamic practice of Ramadan but few know that it is more than simply forgoing food during the day. "You can't eat, gossip or lie while you fast," Mirmalek said. "I think of fasting as training for the rest of the year."

The discussion then moved towards post-9/11 treatment of Sikhs and Muslims. Since 9/11, there have been over 300 reported hate crimes

against Sikhs and Muslims but this figure leaves out the many instances of workplace discrimination and bullying. Much of the issue stems from ignorance of the religions and their believers. A Stanford study reported that 40 percent of Americans believe Sikh is a part of Islam – when the two are entirely different religions. The study also found most Americans could not identify a man in a turban as Sikh and typically labeled him as Hindu, Muslim or Arab. "This means that when I walk down the street, people can't understand what I stand for so we're grouped into 'the other,'" Singh said. This ideology of "the other" can prove to be fatal. Just last year, a white supremacist walked into a Sikh Gurdwara (temple) and killed 6 people. "It's an attack on American ideals such as freedom of religion," Singh said.

Salahi spoke on the issue of racism's roots into structured society. "We have an infrastructure centered on an ideology that Muslims are suspicious and dangerous," he said. He went on to describe post 9/11 FBI practices such as putting Muslims on no-fly lists, confronting them in their homes and training agents to believe Muslims are

likely terrorists. This idea of racism held by even "the respectable" was demonstrated in a video clip where hundreds of protesters harassed members of an American Muslim relief organization while they were hosting a benefit dinner for women's shelters. Villa Park Councilwoman Deborah Pauly expressed immense hatred at the rally, saying, "I know quite a few Marines who would be very happy to help these terrorists to an early meeting in paradise."

During the last portion of the event, the panelists shared personal stories of hate crimes they and members of their families faced. Singh described the terrifying memory of his grandfather being attacked by a group of men while on a walk by himself. "We shouldn't have to go wandering around wondering if we'll be attacked or not. No one should have to deal with that."

McGinn spoke to the success of the event. "The room was packed, the audience was engaged, the speakers impacted the audience, and after the event, audience members from Saint Mary's, UC Berkeley, and other communities and speakers lingered in Hagerty Lounge and had truthful and life-changing conversation."

Crime Beat

10/18/2013 10:25 a.m.

Incident: Hit & Run

Synopsis: Dent in the middle of driver's door in Filippi Parking Lot; suspended

10/18/2013 9:00 p.m.

Incident: Medical Triage

Synopsis: Two students triage for alcohol intoxication – one transported from McKeon Pavilion; referred to Community Life and Health & Wellness

10/19/2013 3:10 a.m.

Incident: Student Handbook Violation

Synopsis: Underage drinking, noise, and possession of alcohol in De La Salle Hall; referred to Community Life

10/19/2013 3:12 a.m.

Incident: Medical Assist

Synopsis: Intoxicated student transported to John Muir Hospital

from Justin Hall; referred to Community Life and Health & Wellness

10/19/2013 9:49 p.m.

Incident: Student Handbook Violation

Synopsis: Possession of paraphernalia in Justin Hall; referred to Community Life

10/21/2013

(Incident occurred 10/17/2013 @ 03:56 p.m.)

Incident: Battery

Synopsis: Battery of student to student in Dante Hall; referred to Community Life

10/21/2013 9:00 a.m.

Incident: Hit and Run

Synopsis: Damage to passenger door panel in Filippi Parking Lot; suspended

10/21/2013 10:10 p.m.

Incident: Information

Synopsis: Inappropriate conduct on Chapel Loop; referred to Sodexo

10/21/2013 11:10 p.m.

Incident: Medical Assist

Synopsis: Student fainted and transported to John Muir Hospital from west side of Dryden Hall; referred to Community Life and Health & Wellness

10/22/2013

(Incident occurred 10/21/2013 @ 9:10 a.m.)

Incident: Medical Assist

Synopsis: Student having possible seizure near water fountain next to Chapel – refused transport; referred to Community Life and Health & Wellness

10/22/2013 8:00 p.m.

Incident: Information
Synopsis: Possible fraud check reported via phone; referred to Loss Prevention

10/23/2013 10:14 a.m.

Incident: Informational- Hit and Run

Synopsis: Vehicle Collision – damage to right front bumper in Filippi Parking Lot; suspended

10/24/2013 1:41 a.m.

Incident: Student Handbook Violation

Synopsis: Noise violation in Freitas Hall; referred to Community Life

10/24/2013 7:35 a.m.

Incident: Information Only

Synopsis: Suspicious package – unfounded – in Post Office; suspended

NEWS

Dystopian Society Club seeks to build camaraderie

BY CJ COSAS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In a crumbling world where the government has failed, society has dissolved, and zombies litter the streets, human survivors must work together just to stay alive. While this dystopian image of the future, Saint Mary's College has a new club called Dystopian Society that may just bring some of that desolate future to campus. Through various club events and activities, the new Dystopian Society Club seeks to build a kind of team dynamic between students that one might find in a post-apocalyptic society. The club was formed and is headed by the combined efforts of its president, Robby Tabor and its vice president, Jessica Axelrod.

Inspiration for forming of the club stemmed from the Humans

Versus Zombies (HVZ) event that Tabor put on through the Campus Activities Board (CAB) back in the spring semester of 2012. After seeing the kinds of friendships and connections that the event created between participants, Tabor stated that he wanted to "rebuild the community aspect of that event [HVZ]. I noticed a whole bunch of different dynamics of trust and betrayal. A lot of people were able to come away from the event with their own personal stories and adventures." However, Tabor didn't want to simply repeat the event; he wanted to create something "self-sustaining" and remarked how he desired to form something that would last even after he graduated.

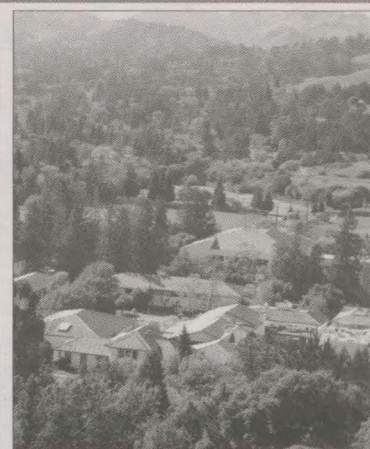
Thus, he created the Dystopian Society Club to not only occasionally host the HVZ event, but also to create all sorts of games

and activities centered around the ideas of survival and team building. Axelrod intimated a similar notion by quoting their club's basic motto, which is a simple statement asking: "What would you do?" However, both Axelrod and Tabor were careful to emphasize the fact that the club's purpose is not to simply become "the zombies club." While zombies may factor into some of their club activities, the broader idea that they are pursuing through their club is more kin to the concept of "live action gaming." They want to bring people together to partake in games that are a bit more unique and unorthodox, but that ultimately act as fun survival exercises that help build team and community bonds. When asked how they might describe their club's goal in a single statement, they said, "To foster a sense of

camaraderie between students through survival scenarios."

Although the club is still new and is still trying to garner new members, the club will be hosting its first event titled "Slendertag" on Halloween night. Starting at 6:45 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn this Thursday, the event is based off the video game "Slender: The Eight Pages" and plays much like a scavenger hunt in the dark. It should be noted, however, that the video game is a survival horror game and the event will not be an ordinary scavenger hunt: the monster known as Slender Man will be on the hunt as well.

The Dystopian Society Club will be holding its first meeting on Monday, Nov. 11, from 7-8 p.m. in Dante Hall 121. For more information, either contact club president Robby Tabor at rjt7@stmarys-ca.edu or dystopiansocietySMC@gmail.com.



Campus Calendar

Women & Leadership

Tuesday, October 29

7:00 p.m.

Sichel Hall 106

Mass at the Cross

Wednesday, October 30

1:00 p.m.

SMC Cross

Contact Rev. John Morris

mdm5@stmarys-ca.edu

How the Catholic Church Shaped San Francisco

Wednesday, October 30

4:30 p.m.

Galileo 201

Contact SMC

x4000

GaelCinema: The Conjuring

Wednesday, October 30

9:00 p.m.

Hagerty Lounge

Contact CAB

x4146

Saint Martin de Porres Benefit Concert

Friday, November 1

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Soda Center and SMC Chapel

Contact Sally Jamison

sjamison@stmarys-ca.edu

CILSA Saturday of Service

Saturday, November 2

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Alameda Point Collaborative

Contact CILSA

x8161

TORRES: inspiring bravery continued from page 1

of the night, after hearing from friends and family, everyone felt that they knew Catalina. One Saint Mary's student and friend of Catalina, Jaime Tomasello, spoke beautifully of the honoree, informing the crowd about how Catalina loved wind chimes, the color purple, and to push Jaime to always go farther. She spoke of Catalina's constant faith and support for her and the role Catalina played in getting Jaime to attend Saint Mary's. Catalina's mother also spoke to the crowd, thanking everyone for remembering her daughter and calling everyone her "united daughters." This was a truly beautiful remembrance of a clearly precious and unique woman.

Inspired by the bravery of Catalina and the love within the room, many speakers shared their own stories during the open mic portion. Stories from both male and female survivors, as well as family members who were watching their own loved ones taken by this cruel epidemic, proved how prevalent this issue is in society. As one audience member, Micaela Flores, stated, "I love coming to this event because we learn about what domestic violence is and hear about people who have survived. This is a real world issue." Indeed, the loss of such a woman as Catalina and the clearly painful pasts of those who survived abuse proved what a large and poisonous position domestic violence has in the world today.

In remembering the loving Catalina, the campus honored the Torres family and encouraged everyone to speak out against injustice. The night's awards were given to Maggie Powers and Liliana Campos, two women who make it their mission to speak out against injustices and show dedication to improving the campus and the outside world. The ending prayer, spoken outside the chapel while participants formed a candle-lit circle, thanked God for advocates like Catalina and called all to look on her as an example.

HEALTHCARE: Saint Mary's College to reevaluate policy continued from page 1

ers, United Healthcare and Kaiser Permanente, also separate elective and necessary abortions.

Ironically, the announcements came as the state government moved to make abortions more accessible. On the same week that Santa Clara University announced its policy change, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law AB 154, a bill which authorizes more types of medical personnel to perform first trimester abortions and bars state building codes from treating abortion clinics differently from other types of buildings.

The decisions by Loyola Mary-

mount and Santa Clara have split their faculty and students and reflect larger questions about Catholic identity in higher education. Although Saint Mary's plan to review its policy has gone relatively unnoticed, the decisions in Loyola Marymount and Santa Clara Universities were greeted with protests and contentious debate. Supporters of the decisions argued that full coverage for elective abortions is incompatible with notions of Catholic identity, while opponents argued that it is unfair for the administration to impose its religious views on non-Catholic members of the community.

These questions of religious iden-

tity will be even more pressing for Saint Mary's College. On one hand, the College prides itself on being a progressive and open-minded community. At the same time, Saint Mary's has occasionally come under fire in the past from more conservative church members who questioned the schools commitment to Catholicism.

Saint Mary's College Communications, the Women's Resource Center, and the head of the Academic Senate could not be reached for comment. However, the online statement reiterates that the administration is far from making a final decision.

Who actually
reads this stuff?
Lots, actually. So
start writing.

We're always looking for new writers. Our weekly storyboard meeting every Monday at 6pm in Dante 120 is a lively event allowing you to interact with the editorial staff and to give your unique voice a broad audience. **For more information, look closer at stmaryscollegian.com.**

Look closer. **The Collegian**

Planning an event?

Want it in The Collegian?

E-mail us with the details of your event at: smccollegian@gmail.com or call for more information: (925) 631-4279

Due to space limitations, we cannot list individual club meetings.

OPINION

Elle covers up Melissa McCarthy

BY GABI REYES-ACOSTA
NEWS EDITOR

For magazines and newspapers, a cover photo can make or break whether someone will pick it up and purchase it. Sadly, we live in a world where putting anything besides what is deemed “conventionally attractive” is a gamble that most magazines aren’t willing to take. The mere presence of a woman above a size four is scandalous, and any magazine that does it — especially a woman’s magazine — is deemed open minded and daring. For its annual “Women in Hollywood” issue, Elle Magazine sought to do just that, putting actress and comedian Melissa McCarthy on the cover of its November issue.

This move has been seen as bold, especially for a well-known women’s magazine such as Elle, but it is still not daring at all. The photo is of McCarthy standing, wearing an extremely oversized grey coat with her hands invisible in the folds of the fabric. Her brown hair is stylishly mussed, though it covers almost half of her face. The only skin that is exposed is a few inches of her calves, disappearing as the page ends. She looks somewhere off camera, her mouth slightly open.

While the fact that McCarthy’s whole body is shown is a relatively new move for a magazine, it’s disheartening that she is still so covered up. It seems that showing a curvy woman’s body, let alone one that is plus-sized, is still too much for the public to handle. Their actions were reminiscent of Lane Bryant ads that were seen as too racy in 2010, and were not allowed on the air by both Fox and ABC. The advertisements depicted a plus-size model wearing the label’s Cacique lingerie line of clothes, walking around her house. Ironically enough, the ads were no more scandalous than the many Victoria Secret ads that have been and still are aired on the two networks. The difference? One advertisement happened to show a confident plus size woman in lingerie as opposed to the extremely thin models that Victoria’s Secret displays.

We live in world where the majority of Americans are over a size 14, yet both print and visual media pretend that these woman are non-existent, telling the consumers who read and tune in that their bodies are not good enough, nor will they ever be. Putting McCarthy on the cover of Elle will not remedy the fact that for all of its other issues the same sized woman is shown, always wearing a short dress or tight skirt. Is it too much to hope that McCarthy’s body would be put on display for what it is, and not covered up like it is something that is shameful? By covering her, Elle is telling people that she isn’t good enough to be shown, while still expecting some sort of recognition for putting her on at all.

The fears and nightmares of Saint Mary’s students

Being alone is a most terrifying thought

BY OLIVER REYES
STAFF WRITER

Spiders, ghosts, zombies, clowns, and Miley Cyrus’ influence on teenage girls are all horribly frightening things, and understandably so. They’re grotesque, dark, and life-scarring. An image of Pennywise, Leatherface, or The Weeping Angels can burn into your mind and never be extinguished. Knowing the Slender Man is always behind you, but never knowing where he is, might not leave your mind for hours or perhaps several nights. The girl who died in Aquinas Hall several years ago, or the woman who haunts Le Fevre theater probably stands in the middle of your room watching you as you sleep. However, the things I fear are much scarier than I want to believe.

I fear that people just feel obligated to love me. I fear that I’m a waste of my parents’ time. I fear that I’ll die, and no one will notice until they need money from me. I fear that the girl will run away after I propose. I fear that my children will hate me. I don’t fear being lonely, but I fear being alone. I fear that using humor to cover up what I really feel might not work anymore. I fear that I might find a corpse on my windshield as I grip the steering wheel so hard it hurts. I fear that I can’t feel sad enough to cry. I fear that if I were to walk across the Golden Gate Bridge, I might decide to jump. I also don’t like ants. They’re kind of creepy. Happy Halloween.

Heights aren’t the problem, it’s the falling

BY MATT RINGARD
OPINION EDITOR

I am deathly afraid of falling: not of heights or planes or skyscrapers, but of falling from them. There are few things so breathtaking as marvelous views from a cliff or panoramas of great cities from high terraces. I’ve enjoyed the views from many such vantage points, and they don’t bother me given a few conditions. First, there must be some kind of barrier between me and the fall—a rail, a retaining wall, a hedge, glass. Second, I must actively avoid thinking about that possible plunge to my death. If I’m successful in that, and I have something sturdy to hold onto, heights are not a problem.

But conditions are not always so ideal. While I’ve been lucky enough to fly a lot, when it comes to airplane rides, the takeoff is always terrifying. I have this scene that plays out in my head every time: sometimes the angle is too dramatic and the tail of the plane gets caught on the runway and we slam down, other times the engine stalls after a thousand feet and we are obliterated.

The worst case of my fear of falling happened in Canada a few years ago. I was forced to take a tram, which struck me as more of an aluminum coffin, to the summit of a mountain. It dangled perilously several hundred feet over jagged granite. Few times in my life have I been so paralyzed with fear — there may have even been some tears. It was one of the most agonizing 30 minutes of my life.

Halloween: holiday of expression or terrifying night?

Halloween provides fun time to dress up

BY BRIDGET HANNA
STAFF WRITER

Everyone thinks Halloween has become a commoditized holiday that has been taken entirely out of context from its origins in order to satiate the repression of sexuality that occurs on the other 364 days of the year. Or, they see it as yet another holiday that has been lost in the commercialization and American capitalism prevalent in our society and blah, blah, blah. People can come up with a whole host of reasons to argue against Halloween, but the fact is that people enjoy it. There’s a thrill to dressing up and taking on another persona for a night of revelry.

I remember when I was a kid and dressing up was the bees knees — all I wanted to do was be the pink Power Ranger for Halloween despite the fact that the face mask was sweaty, the neck tie got caught in my hair and nobody could see my costume under the layers of warm clothing I wore over it to go trick-or-treating. I still get that same thrill of excitement getting dressed up for Halloween now because it means for one night I get to be somebody else and wear a face that isn’t the one I normally present to society. I’m never going to be the pink Power Ranger any more than I would be

a Celtic queen or a masked serial killer wielding a bloody knife (at least not that I know of yet). But the lure of Halloween for some is similar to the lure of Comic Con for others, only Halloween is more accessible.

As to whether or not Halloween has become an overtly sexualized event, that’s not necessarily a bad thing. We live in a society where it’s okay to market a costume as a “Naughty Witch” or a “Sexy Devil” but not okay when it comes to someone who dares to wear the costume. I’m of the mind that, if somebody wants to dress sexy and break free of the mold of normalcy for a night to explore their own sexuality, then let them. It doesn’t matter who you are or what gender you identify as — if you want to be sexy for Halloween, then I support your right to do so. The strictness of social boundaries breaks down just as easily as the boundaries between the spiritual and physical world do on this one night, so take it and enjoy it.

Now that my rant on unhindered sexuality is over, I want to address what is probably the best part of the holiday — the candy corn. Please don’t hate me for loving the tiny treat made out of wax and sugar, but Halloween is the one time of the year where I get to have my candy corn and eat it too, and I will not be giving that up!

Elevators, tunnels, and bridges are scary

BY MADISON CHASTAIN
STAFF WRITER

When I am in a new place, I map out plans of action in case of an emergency. I don’t actually think bad things happen everywhere I go, but places like elevators, bridges, and underground offer very few escape options. Elevators, for example. You get trapped in one of those steel death traps of madness, you’re stuck with who knows who else, and with your luck the lights go out but the music stays on and you’re trapped looming above a drop. Tunnels are also especially treacherous. Collapse? Doom. If you’re on that BART ride under the bay, you encounter water and then doom. And bridges, though I am well educated in plans of escape in the case of a bridge related emergency, are probably the scariest. If a bridge starts shaking, you either ignore all driving norms or get out of your car and book it off that bridge. But let’s say you’re too busy scream-singing to Miley Cyrus’s “Wrecking Ball” and you don’t notice that the bridge you’re crossing is out, so you go careening into the depths below. You have to wait until the car is fully submerged, open a door, let the car fill with water, and then swim out and end up wasting your breath. Literally every single aspect of that sounds terrifying. I’d rather just stay firmly on the ground or above ground and, if by any chance I’m forced to move, you’d better believe I’m taking the stairs.

Raccoons, the deadly creatures of the night

BY SARA DESANTIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It was one in the morning on a stormy January night two years ago, and I was making my way back to the dorm after writing a paper in the library. Suddenly, I saw a large animal form materializing from the darkness. The creature crept closer, its eyes glowing in the night and fur blowing in the gusty wind. As it stepped into the light of the sidewalk lamp, it revealed itself to be a raccoon. A huge, scary raccoon that reared back and hissed at me. I was sure that death was coming; in the morning, they would find my body, desperately holding the paper that was the cause of this nighttime standoff. Luckily, the raccoon spared me that night, but the fear has remained with me to this day.

All students will encounter a raccoon, or an entire deadly pack (fun fact: a group of raccoons is also known as a nursery, which I think is an oxymoron because raccoons should not be equated with innocent babies), during their time at Saint Mary’s, especially if you enjoy hanging around dumpsters late at night. They act like they own the campus, which they do, because they all have rabies. They also like to wait until you pass by a trashcan or bush and sprint out and hiss at you, giving you a heart attack. Now, I will admit that I will watch funny raccoon videos on YouTube, but when I’m confronted with the beast in real life, you can be sure that I will run the other way.

Halloween loses its fun as you grow older

BY TORI STRINGER
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Growing up, Halloween seemed like a fun holiday to get dressed up and get free candy; however, as I’ve gotten older, I’ve started to dislike Halloween more and more. It is a holiday centered on scaring people and being scared, which sounds like no fun to me.

Some people say they like the thrill of being scared, but I just don’t get it. I don’t watch scary movies. Most seem either gratuitously gory or no fun because you’re constantly tense, waiting for the next jump scare. Also, people love going to haunted houses and corn mazes to be scared by people in freaky costumes. Seriously? That’s like a horror movie come to life. Isn’t the point of scary movies so that you can feel a thrill without having to be confronted with the situation in real life? Being in a haunted house is like living a horror movie — that sounds pretty awful to me.

A lot of people argue that they love Halloween because they love dressing up and, yes, I’ll admit that dressing up in costumes is a ton of fun. However, Halloween at college age doesn’t bring the same cute or creative costumes like when I was a kid; it becomes an excuse for girls to dress provocatively in a costume that barely even resembles what it’s meant to. The “sexy Marie Antoinette” costume that you bought last week? I appreciate your attempt to

use history as inspiration, but that costume is basically a short skirt and crop top. Not at all close to historically accurate. Not to mention all of the repetitive costumes I see — everyone loves to be a cat, sexy witch, or schoolgirl. Where’d the originality go?

Then there are costumes with masks. Now, I have an irrational fear of anyone in a mask, so when I was a kid and adults thought it would be funny to open the door with a mask on to scare the children, I was terrified. I never shook this fear, so I spend most of Halloween running away from anyone wearing a mask, even if I know who is underneath it. It also doesn’t help that most costumes that involve a mask are characters from horror movies — which I’ve already mentioned I have not seen, and I have no inclination to see them walking around campus.

Now, I admit, free candy is awesome. However, now that I’m too old for trick-or-treating, this part of Halloween is lost to me. I end up having to buy my own candy at Target. Without trick-or-treating there’s really nothing to do except sit around and eat your hoards of Target candy and do your homework, considering Halloween falls on a Thursday this year.

Halloween really loses its flare and becomes pointless as you get older. I’d love to be more excited about Halloween, but all I really want is some candy corn and to watch “Halloweentown.”

OPINION

NSA asks government officials for contact information of world leaders

US government's extreme paranoia and spying threatens to spoil relations with allied countries

BY SARA DESANTIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In another move of vigilante hacking, Edward Snowden released a classified document detailing how the National Security Agency monitored the phone conversations of 35 world leaders after being given the numbers by an official in another U.S. government department. The confidential memo sent by the NSA encouraged senior officials in departments such as the White House, Senate, and the Pentagon to share

their address books so the NSA could add the phone numbers of the world leaders to their surveillance systems. The 35 world leaders are understandably upset, and what ensued was a literal scolding of the United States by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and an immediate demand by the French Prime Minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, for the U.S. to send an envoy to explain the country's activities.

Interestingly, the memo was written halfway through George W. Bush's second term, and yet, with the arrival of President Obama, this perceived "necessity" was conveniently continued. White House press secretary Jay Carney issued a statement responding to the allegations, saying that the U.S. "is not monitoring and will not monitor" Merkel's communications. Officials in Berlin quickly pointed out that the U.S. did not deny monitoring conversations in the past.

Similarly, Caitlin Hayden,

spokeswoman for the White House's National Security Council, reiterated Carney's statement, but did not elaborate on past activities: "I'm not in a position to comment publicly on every specific alleged intelligence activity."

The problem here is that either President Obama was unaware of the continuing espionage activities of the NSA, who are out of control and in need of some adult supervision, or that President Obama was aware of these activities and allowed them to continue. Either scenario reflects poorly on the past and present administrations.

German Chancellor Merkel told President Obama that eavesdropping on friends is "never acceptable, no matter in what situation." She is correct. If anything, these actions appear to recall the distrust that grew out of the Cold War Era.

By playing with their "My First Spy Kit" which, as we

all remember from popular the Scholastic Book Fair item, comes with X-Ray goggles so the NSA can also screen underneath the clothing of world leaders (just to be safe, of course), the U.S. added to the growing diplomatic tension with its allies. I might be mistaken, but the basic definition of "allies" does not usually coincide with the concept of "tension."

What's ironic about all this is that the memo conceded that the eavesdropping provided "little reportable intelligence." Imagine that – spying on one's allies revealed nothing dangerous to the U.S. Could it be that the other nations were upholding their standing as allies, and that the U.S. allowed itself to feed its own paranoia?

Carney told reporters that: "The [NSA] revelations have clearly caused tension in our relationships with some countries, and we are dealing with that through diplomatic channels ... These are very important

relations both economically and for our security, and we will work to maintain the closest possible ties." How difficult could it have been for our government leaders to realize that this was a bad idea before they eavesdropped on allied world leaders? With the government shutdown fiasco of a few weeks ago fresh in the minds of the American people, and now the disapproval of the 35 world allies the U.S. spied on, one has to wonder if it is too hard for any of our government leaders to make a sane decision.

The U.S. is facing growing international criticism, as its recent activities gives the impression that it values intelligence gained from spying on friendly countries more than the potential foreign diplomatic damage to our country. One thing is for certain, the NSA needs to be closely reexamined and monitored in the future. Maybe it's not the foreign countries we should be investigating.

Daisy Coleman tells her side of the story

Missouri rape victim gathers sympathy for her case and calls for justice

BY TORI STRINGER
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Over a year ago, Missouri resident Daisy Coleman and her close friend, then 14 and 13 years old respectively, were raped by a close family friend. The charges against the boy were eventually dropped after the victims chose to take their Fifth Amendment right to not participate in the case. The prosecutor eventually decided the sex was consensual, and thus the case was over.

After a year of harassment with no justice brought to her assailant, Daisy finally decided to take the issue public. Daisy wrote an article on Oct. 18 on xojane.com that has sparked a huge uprising in support for her case. The hashtag #justice4daisy has been trending on social media sites and Daisy's story is spreading faster than lightning.

What's most interesting in the development of this case is Daisy's choice to tell her side of the story. Rarely do we hear a victim's story; however, it also must be taken with a grain of salt. Daisy's account reveals some incriminating decisions made by the girls that night and also is written with a biased perspective.

Daisy opens her piece like a fiction novel: "Winter: cold, bleak, bitter, ugly. Almost like summer has taken off its mask and shown its true colors." This dramatic opening is echoed a few times during the piece when Daisy clearly uses drama to make her readers feel sympathy for her. She is a rape victim; it is in no way necessary for her to have to make people feel bad

for her. Yet, she chooses to frame the event with this over-dramatization, which takes away from the vulnerability and bravery she shows in choosing to share her story.

She then reveals some not-so-smart choices she and her friend made the night of the incident. She admits they were drinking alcohol while watching a movie, unbeknownst to her parents. She was also texting a boy three years older than herself who invited her over late at night. She says she trusted this boy simply because he was her brother's friend and let him pick her and her friend up in his car, drive them to his house, and sneak

While the reopening of the case is definitely a good thing, people are acting like this is the only, or most important, rape case in history.

them in through the basement window.

As if that didn't seem sketchy enough, she also accepted a mysterious alcoholic drink from him and his friends who were also present at the party – a total of five shots. Now, while rape is ultimately never the victim's fault, Daisy's article reveals that she made some very poor choices that, if she had chosen differently, could have prevented the event from happening.

After the description of the night of the incident, Daisy recounts how she woke up confused. However, she never mentions what happened to her friend or even having any concern for her. That part of the story seems conveniently left out, as does any reprimanding for her poor choices that night.

She describes all of the repercussions of the event, namely that she and her brother were bullied, that she was suspended from the cheerleading squad, and that her mom lost her job. She claims she "couldn't go out in public." It isn't clear why the repercussions were so intense or why they affected her whole family, but she is sure to mention how they made her resort to self-harm and attempt suicide.

She ends on a hopeful note that the reopening of her case "is a victory, not just for me, but for every girl." While the reopening of the case is definitely a good thing, people are acting like this is the only, or most important, rape case in history. Daisy's overblown account doesn't help this explosion of popularity and sympathy.

However, while people want to write "justicefordaisy" on their arms and join in the protest, this is not, and will not be the only rape case that goes public. While it is good that the issue of rape is being brought to the public's attention and justice may in fact be served, it is insensitive to make it seem like the be-all-end-all. Rape is a persisting issue in our culture and people should always care, not just jump on the bandwagon because it is trending and popular to care now.

"Starting Six is _____. I think it's _____ that they didn't come."

There's more than one opinion to every story. That's why we offered several perspectives to the Gaelapalooza Starting Six fallout. **For more information, look closer at stmaryscollegian.com.**

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Anonymous letters are rarely, if ever published.

CULTURE

Collegiate to corporate

How to dress professionally as a student

BY MAHSA DINYARI
CULTURE EDITOR

It's fall, which means that, along with all the Halloween and Thanksgiving festivities, it is also internship season. This is the time that many students will begin applying for internships and corporate jobs, and interviews and first impressions become crucial. This means we will have to dress out of our Saint Mary's hoodies and jeans and into more professional apparel. In order to have a positive impact on interviewers and new bosses, we must take advantage of a few tips, which both guys and girls can look into in order to leave a lasting impression.

Fortunately for girls, dressing for a corporate position is not difficult. If you do not want to go out and buy an expensive, tailored business suit, opt for items that may already be in your closet. Try a pair of classic dress pants (which you can buy at any department store) or a knee length black skirt. Pair it with some kind of a blouse; a button-up would be most suited. Tuck the top in or out, depending on what bottom you choose as well as its length and style.

Accessories are also key to creating a sleek yet personal look. First, if you choose to tuck your blouse in, you may opt for a belt to add a little more of your personality. If you prefer more of a clean, glossy approach, select a simple black, gold or silver belt to go along with the colors of your outfit. If color is more your game, you could choose to pair the skirt or slacks with a more colorful or

bedazzled belt. Try not to get too wild with the embellishments and colors, though; you don't want to be too loud in a first interview or a first day on the job, as it may give off too forward of a vibe.

In regards to jewelry, pick one of three (whatever goes with your belt if you have one): silver, gold, or black. These are simple staples that every girl should have in her wardrobe, especially because they are not too flashy for the professional look. You could go for larger earrings if they aren't too big or gaudy or a chunkier necklace if it is not too heavy with embellishments. Keep it classy, but also make sure the piece of jewelry reflects your personality, as well.

For the boys: dressing corporate is not as difficult as it may appear, either. College puts us all on a budget, but even guys can decide on what they may already own. For instance, take the nicest button up shirt you own and pair it with a pair of gray or black slacks. Tuck in the button up and add a simple, clean belt. Don't forget a pair of nicer dress shoes, and a tie if you're feeling adventurous. Even though this look may sound a little too easy, as long as your clothes are ironed and you look well put together, this simple style can go a long way.

All in all, dressing out of our typical college outfits is not as hard as it may appear. We may already own professional items of clothing; it will just take a little mixing and matching to create a polished look that is acceptable for interviews, corporate positions, and internships.

BART's mild effect

Strike did not hurt students too greatly

BY MADDI LARSON
STAFF WRITER

Millions of people rely on the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) for their daily activities, so when the BART strike occurred, a great portion of the Bay Area was affected. On Oct. 18, many Bay Area residents were struck to learn that their day-to-day use of transportation was not in service. Many people were not able to go to work or school, and had to find a totally different way of getting to where they needed to go. This not only affected the Bay Area commuters, but it mildly affected Saint Mary's students.

While only a small portion of our students use BART to get to school every day, BART is still an essential tool for off-campus activities. If a student does not have a car and wants to go somewhere other than Lafayette, then they would have to opt for BART. So when the BART workers went on strike, many plans disintegrated. In fact, many students weren't even aware that the strike meant that the BART trains were not in use, so when

the charter bus dropped students off in front of the station, they had to physically find out that the trains were in fact not in service. Any idea of going to your favorite café in Berkeley or spending the day at Fisherman's Wharf was ultimately postponed until further notice.

Thankfully for most Saint Mary's students, the strike was just an inconvenience that did not allow them to go home that weekend or spend a day off campus with friends. It did not necessarily stop many students from coming to school, so classes went on as expected. The strike affected the students mainly for weekend activities, and thus the days had to be spent back at campus or in Lafayette rather than San Francisco, Berkeley, or even Walnut Creek.

Now that it is over, we can do whatever we were planning to do on the days of the strike. If you somehow missed work or school, so did many other residents of the Bay Area. All in all, the strike was simply a huge inconvenience for fun, but our lives as a whole were not greatly affected.

“Oh, she’s just being Miley”

Pop sensation stands up against accusations and hate

BY AUDREY AGOT
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Britney Spears. Christina Aguilera. Miley Cyrus. All of these women are pop sensations, but Miley possesses something that has brought her to stand out from the rest. Recently, she caught plenty of flak for her provocative MTV Video Music Awards performance, and her generally reckless, crude behavior. However, this is not what makes Miley unique. Britney and Christina, being the legends that they are, have gone through their own controversial phases that once had soccer moms up in arms, too. Miley has managed to take controversy to another level: making a broader statement against society, one drastic public display at a time.

Some say that this “new Miley” made her debut with her severely short haircut, which was revealed via Twitter. Almost everyone had something to say about it, and soon enough, Miley's hair became a trending topic. Tweets such as user @TayMagRog's, “AHHH Miley's hair is so freaking tragic looking. But it's great because it made her even more ugly! #hateher” saturated Twitter feeds, but some comments spoke to even larger issues. One user, @viajerajulia remarked, “Miley's hair is why men are afraid

to propose! Women think once they get the ring they can let it all hang out/start looking like a lesbian!”

While everyone got their kicks putting their two cents in about Miley's hair, little did they know that they were proving the point she was trying to make with the move. In an interview with Rolling Stone, Miley commented on her hair: “There's something empowering about what I'm doing right now. Especially having ‘short hair, don't care.’ I think it's empowering for girls. Because there's not one thing that defines what beauty is.” Whether Miley's haircut is aesthetically pleasing is a matter of opinion, but one thing is for certain: it revealed just how ugly some people are.

However, it wasn't the haircut that had both feminists and suburban mothers in an uproar. Miley's performance at the VMAs took society and the entertainment scene by storm. The number began with Miley's platinum single “We Can't Stop,” in which the singer, clad in a teddy bear onesie, pranced around on stage with her background dancers. Next, singer Robin Thicke entered to perform his own hit single, “Blurred Lines.” This was where Miley shed the onesie to reveal a nude, barely-there latex outfit, and proceeded to “twerk” on

Thicke's lap, which was the catalyst of most of the anger surrounding Miley. Moms were outraged that someone with young fans would do such a thing. Feminists argued that she was contributing to the degradation of women. Yet, despite all of this happening during Thicke's own vulgar song, he managed to evade public scrutiny, compared to the barrage of criticism that fell upon Miley. When she appeared on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” Miley addressed this issue, “No one talks about [Robin Thicke]. No one cares about the man behind the booty. You only care about the one who's shakin' it.”

At the age of 20, Miley Cyrus has been witness to the same issues that our generation faces: the pressure to conform to one definition of beauty and the quickness to shame a woman for her sensuality, yet excuse men for the same behavior. Miley, in explanation of her aversion to clothes, simply said that she doesn't like them; she finds them to be restricting when she just wants to relax. What young adult woman can't relate to that? Like many young adults, Miley lives in a society riddled with contradictions and hypocrisy. Calling her behavior scandalous may be an understatement, but she effectively uses her pop culture prevalence to call attention to issues that matter.

Fashion Profile: Ariana Alvarez

BY KATIE MACCARIELLO
STAFF WRITER

Walking around campus, Student Ambassadors are frequently seen giving tours in what everyone thinks is their uniform: a blue oxford shirt with the Saint Mary's logo, as well as a pair of khaki pants. But, in her second year as an Ambassador, Ariana “Ari” Alvarez explains that they have quite a bit of freedom in choosing what to pair their oxfords with. She most noticeably stands out in Ambassador group pictures with a bright red skirt, “adding the perfect pop of color and personality,” but she also loves adding other fun skirts, pants, and shoes, especially ones with bold patterns.

Ari first took an interest in fashion in the 8th grade. Born in San Francisco and raised in the East Bay, she acquired a sense of style that combined the simple, basic style of the Bay Area with eclectic pieces inspired by the different cultures always present in San Francisco, where unpredictable weather made layering more than necessary. Ari is always wearing a scarf. Of her obsession with scarves, she says, “I have collections from all over the world.”

“Coming from a Mexican household, I also love incorporating pieces that are true to my culture, like colorful shawls, handmade jewelry, embroidered tops and purses, gauraches, and so much more.” Ari shops at stores like Forever 21, H&M, and Urban Outfitters, and while they carry pieces that are Mexican-inspired, she finds that they are not the same as getting the genuine items from home. “You can never go wrong with [them] — they carry a great balance of basics and



(Courtesy of Ariana Alvarez/Facebook)

really fun, unique looking pieces. What I would say is my hidden gem for fashion, beyond my thrifted finds, is Cost Plus World Market. I have found some of my favorite scarves and jewelry pieces there.” World Market uniquely imports from all around the world.

Ari has a pretty huge wardrobe, but she does it all on a budget. Instead of spending big bucks on just one item, Ari will scavenge thrift stores for accessible items that she can use to recreate designer looks without subduing her personality. She's not one that keeps up with the latest trends, and doesn't simply try to recreate looks from magazines. Instead, “fashion is a form of expression and an outlet for creativity. Fashion allows [me] to mix and match different concepts, eras, cultures, patterns, and so much more.”

While Ari can never bring herself to copy an outfit piece-for-piece from someone else, she loves looking through blogs like “The Day

Book Blog.” It is run by a young mother who has a talented eye for mixing and matching pieces from affordable stores like Forever 21 and Target.

Blacks and grays are the easiest colors to wear, but most people who wear them fall victim to drab, boring, dark, and dreary outfits. To counteract this, Ari pairs bright accessories alongside gray and black basics. She is always seen “with some type of brightly colored scarf, a cardigan, and some sort of mix of stripes and polka dots.” Her glasses are always the final perfect touch to her outfits, and she loves “wearing glasses that have a unique twist because they are that simple touch that add subtle hint of flair.” She thrives off color, and loves expressing herself in how she dresses for fall.

Fashion is all around the College, and even those who have to submit to some kind of uniform, like Ari, have the ability to personalize an outfit.

SPORTS

NBA returns tonight; basketball fans rejoice This year proves to be one of the most exciting seasons



(Courtesy of rollingout.com)

BY NICK HASTINGS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the skies darken, the birds take flight to warmer climes, and the deciduous foliage on campus loses chlorophyll at alarming rates, it can only mean one thing: basketball is back.

The 2013-2014 NBA season promises to be one of the most entertaining in recent memory, with a glut of powerful contenders vying for a spot on top of the world's tallest basketball podium. The league is enjoying a ratings and media upswing unseen since the meteoric rise of Michael Jordan in the '90s, and it's all because of one man: LeBron James.

James, one of the most polarizing figures in professional sports as recently as 2011, has morphed into the most destructive basketball force since MJ hung up his shoes in 1998 (let's just pretend the Wizards years never happened) and is must-see TV for any NBA fan, casual and hardcore alike. His Miami Heat team is gunning for the first back-to-back-to-back championship run since the Kobe-Shaq Lakers powerhouse of the early 2000s, and everyone is tuning in.

The Heat, however, face a serious challenge in returning to the NBA's summit: the Eastern Conference is as strong at the top as it's ever been, with Chicago's Derrick Rose (the league MVP in 2011) returning from injury, reportedly stronger than ever; the Indiana Pacers, Miami's toughest matchup in last year's playoffs, reinforced their thin bench with Argentinian forward Luis Scola and point guard gunner CJ Watson, and should only improve as stars Paul George and Roy Hibbert grow together; and the Brooklyn Nets revamped their roster dramatically via a blockbuster trade with the Celtics that sent out Gerald Wallace, Kris Humphries and MarShon Brooks in exchange for surefire hall-of-famers Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce, along with sharpshooting guard Jason Terry.

Even if the Heat manage to overcome the defense-heavy East, they will face what may be an even greater challenge in the team that makes it out of the loaded Western Conference.

The West is teeming with title

contenders this year, as nearly every team (save the Nuggets and Lakers; poor Kobe!) improved over the offseason: last year's silver medalist, the San Antonio Spurs, show no signs of slowing down despite the old age of their players, replacing Gary Neal with Italian marksman Marco Belinelli and relying on swingman Kawhi Leonard's development as a budding star; the Los Angeles Clippers snagged a respectable coach in Doc Rivers to replace a non-factor on the bench in Vinny Del Negro, while simultaneously adding guards Jared Dudley and JJ Redick to bolster their perimeter shooting to surround Chris Paul and Blake Griffin's murderous pick-and-roll combination; Houston added All-Star center Dwight Howard, who should nicely compliment guard James Harden, the NBA's consensus breakout superstar of 2013; and Oklahoma City remains a powerhouse title threat as long as they field two of the league's top eight players in Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

The West, unlike the top-heavy East, also features many midlevel playoff threats that all possess the ability to make noise in the post-season by getting hot at the right time. Memphis, Denver, Portland, New Orleans, and Minnesota all have potent offenses that could wreak havoc if any of the previous title contenders mentioned sustain some injuries down the stretch. Suffice to say, the West is deep this year.

All of this, and still no mention of the hometown Warriors?

The 49ers and Giants may face some stiff competition in television ratings and popularity in the Bay soon, as the rising Warriors are primed to make a deep playoff run on the shoulders of charismatic superstar point guard Stephen Curry.

Coming off a season in which Curry finally showed his potential and stayed healthy all year (fingers crossed!), the Warriors enjoyed one of the best summers in the league by signing star swingman Andre Iguodala away from the Denver Nuggets to bolster their wing depth, which many declare as maybe their only weakness. Iguodala, a fantastic playmaker and defender, not to mention his off-the-charts athleti-

cism, should make the W's one of the most exciting, watchable teams in the Association this year, as well as allowing either Harrison Barnes or Klay Thompson to come off the bench as a high-scoring 6th-man extraordinaire.

With the league's popularity at an all-time high and still rising, one thing is for sure: the NBA is big.

Dellavedova makes roster Delly officially part of Cleveland Cavaliers

BY EMILIO BUENROSTRO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Matthew Dellavedova has done it. On Friday, Oct. 26, one of Saint Mary's most celebrated athletes has been named to the final 15-man roster for the Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association.

With questions of whether or not Dellavedova was NBA material, he ultimately went undrafted this summer at the 2013 NBA Draft. Unfair claims that questioned his basketball ability didn't stop him from proving his doubters wrong.

This decision came as expected, as Dellavedova demonstrated strong play in Summer League action and training camp. Additionally he continued to receive high praise from the Cavaliers' coaching staff, including from fellow West Coast Conference prideful Mike Brown, the Head Coach of the Cavaliers who played for the University of San Diego.

"Delly just brings a toughness,"

Cavaliers coach Mike Brown told Cavs.com. "And even though he's a rookie, [he] brings a veteran feel to the ballclub that you can't get out of young guys."

Dellavedova currently sits as the team's third string point guard, whom many expect to spend some time with the Canton Charge, the D-League affiliate of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

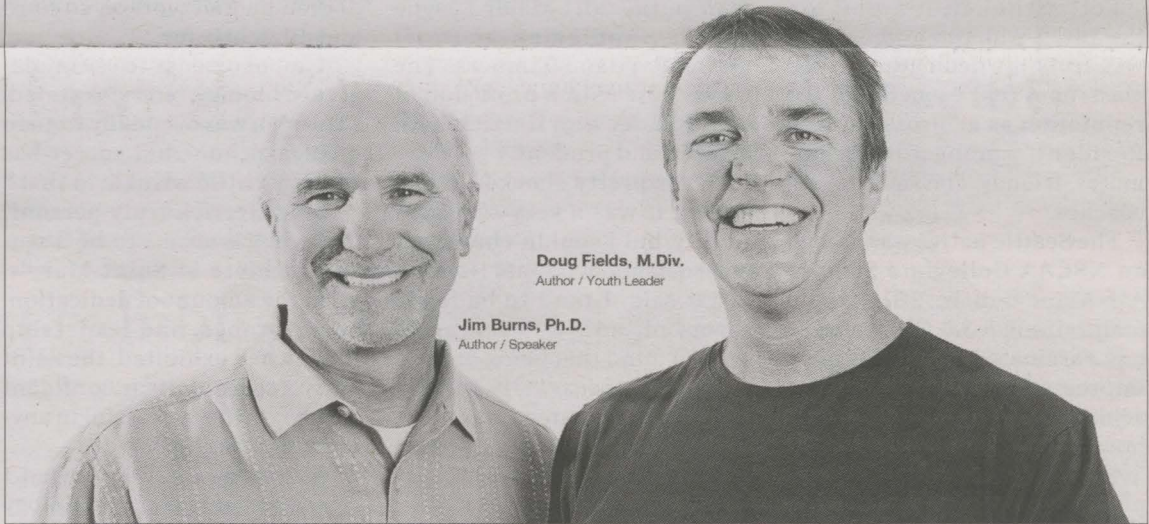
The Cavaliers begin their season tomorrow against the Brooklyn Nets at 7:00 p.m. The game will be nationally televised on NBATV.

Cleveland's developmental league affiliate the Canton Charge begin their season on November 22, against the Erie Bayhawks at 7:00 p.m.

No matter which team Dellavedova spends most of the season playing for, the Saint Mary's community knows that this accomplishment is one that makes them immensely proud, as they look forward to seeing Delly begin his new journey on the world's prominent basketball stage: The National Basketball Association.

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SPORTS THIS WEEK

Volleyball
Thurs. @ Pacific 7:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
Thurs. vs. Portland 2:30 p.m.
Sun. vs. Gonzaga 11:00 a.m.

Men's Tennis
Fri.-Sun. @ Pacific Invitational

Men's Soccer
Fri. vs. LMU 3:00 p.m.
Sun. vs. San Diego 2:00 p.m.

Men's Golf
Thurs.-Sat. @ Pacific Invitational

Cross Country
Sat. @ WCC Championships
Malibu, Calif.

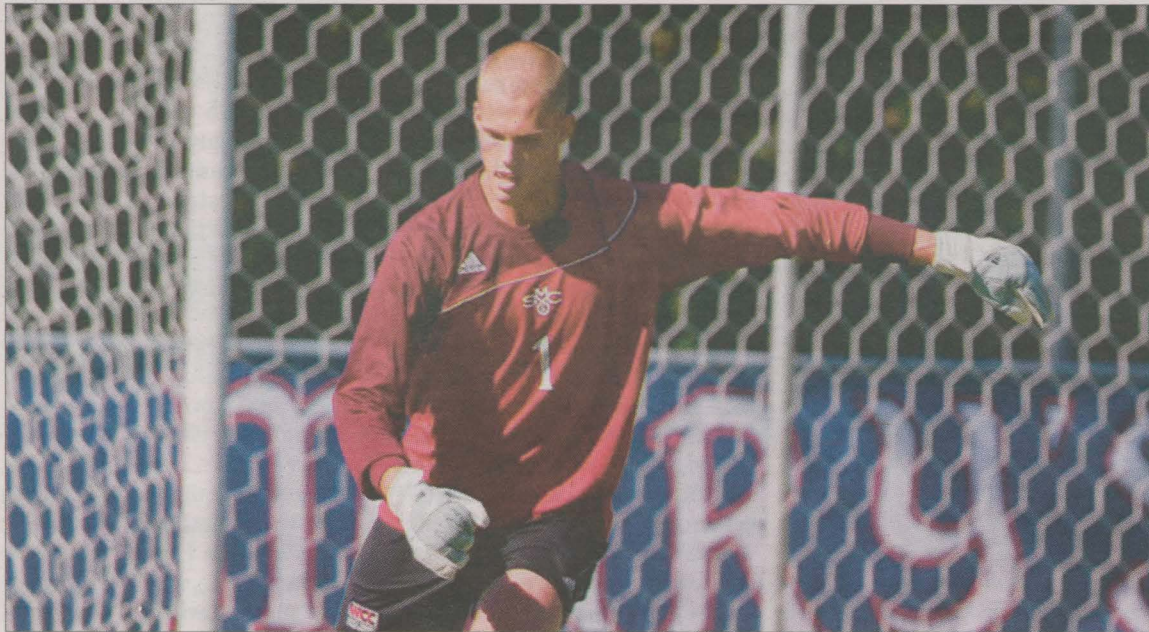
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SPORTS

Doug Herrick: A true student athlete

Former soccer goal keeper epitomizes the meaning of a Saint Mary's athlete



(Courtesy of smcgaels.com)

BY EMILIO BUENROSTRO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Upon finishing his degree in biology, one of the men's soccer team's most successful keepers personified what it truly meant to be a student athlete at Saint Mary's.

Doug Herrick, a recent graduate of Saint Mary's who helped lead the 2011 squad to their unbelievable journey to the NCAA Elite Eight, has a plethora of school records under his belt, including 27 wins and 24 shut-outs.

Yet, although his play on the pitch was phenomenal, it was truly his dedication in the classroom that earned him the reputation as a "Brosseau Hall Resident" amongst his teammates, friends, classmates, and coaches.

The Seattle native was named an NSCAA Collegiate Scholar All-American in 2011 while maintaining a 3.5 GPA in biology. Fascinated, and undeniably impressed upon hearing these achievements, I had to ask him how he accomplished it.

"I can't speak enough to the professors, coaches and friends that made this possible for me," stated Herrick. "At the end of the day, it was a grind. One fall I developed a reputation for doing physics homework as a pre-game ritual. I put a whole lot of time into both soccer and biology and I think my constant need for juggling helped me be more successful in both."

Now I don't care who you are, but anyone who has the mental toughness to do physics homework before an intensive 90 minutes of action definitely has a good head on their shoulders and epitomizes the idea of the student coming before the athlete.

His most prideful accomplishment came during his senior year in 2011, when the Gaels hoisted the West Coast Conference title on their home field, celebrating with family and friends. The win against San Diego automatically qualified Saint Mary's for the NCAA Tournament.

Off the field, Herrick was a leader not only amongst his teammates, but in the Saint Mary's community as well. Aside from his accomplish-

ments in the classroom, Herrick declared his proudest moment off the pitch was co-leading a memorial service for the late Connor Redd, a fellow Saint Mary's keeper who had played together with Herrick for two years.

"To this day, I can think of nothing more important that I have ever done," stated Herrick. "Connor's memory remains with me in everything I do and every game I play."

Upon finishing his athletic collegiate career, Herrick received news that he was drafted 46th in the 2011 Major League Soccer Supplemental Draft by the Portland Timbers. The news came with a profusion of emotion, leaving Herrick both amazed and prudent.

"I was pretty shocked. I had known it was a very real possibility, but I couldn't believe it until it happened," said Herrick. "That said, I tend to be fairly reserved, and was trying to keep in mind that being drafted wouldn't necessarily offer a contract, and instead was more of a try out. There was still a lot of work to be done to actually sign."

After being drafted by the Timbers, Herrick was brought into Portland for two weeks of training and was later cut by the team.

He would then return to Saint Mary's to finish his degree in biology. However, Herrick would quickly get another opportunity to play professionally.

"One day my phone rang. The goalkeeper coach from the Sounders who I had worked with previously told me that he wanted me to come and play for the U23 team while training each day with the first team," stated Herrick. "Eventually, the season ended, and Seattle brought me into training camp this past January. In April, I was offered a position as an MLS League Pool Goalkeeper, stationed in Seattle."

Whenever a team is in need of a goalkeeper, Herrick can be flown in for an extended period of time to fill the need of an MLS team without having to alter the shape of their roster. At the time being, Herrick stays in Seattle as a Sounders player, ready for the chance to suit up on the pitch, no matter the opportunity.

"I would love to play abroad, and have been on trial in Japan to possibly play there," said Herrick. "The stressful part of this business is that my phone can ring at any given time and I could be on a plane anywhere with no clue of when I return. Any player wants to play. My hope is to keep improving and maybe get some games so I can eventually be the long term starting goalkeeper for a club."

Although he aspires to find himself a solidified position for a club in the near future, Herrick still hopes to utilize the degree he had worked so hard and diligently for.

"I hope someday to use my degree in biology," Herrick stated. "The plan was originally to go to medical school, but soccer has thrown a little wrinkle in that."

Doug Herrick truly personified what it meant to be a student athlete at Saint Mary's. With the amount of dedication, perseverance, and leadership that he had exhibited, the Saint Mary's community is confident that he will be successful in anything he tries his hand at.

"As long as I still love what I do as a soccer player, the biology career can wait," declared Herrick. "I'm happy I have that degree in my back pocket though, because some day I hope to take advantage of the education I got at Saint Mary's."

Volleyball breaks even

The team's loss at home was countered by a win



(Courtesy of smcgaels.com)

BY EMILIO BUENROSTRO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Saint Mary's women's volleyball team endured their first home loss of the season last Thursday, falling to conference foe and the fourth ranked team in the nation, the University of San Diego Toreros, in three sets.

San Diego and Saint Mary's opened up the match closely, going back and forth in the first set. The Toreros would take advantage midway through the set and build their lead from there, striking first with a 25-21 win.

In the second set, the story would prove to be similar to the first, with San Diego using a 5-1 run midway through the set to capture the lead. The run the Gaels had conceded put them too far in a hole for them to climb out of, as they would eventually fall to the Toreros in the second set, 25-21.

The Gaels showed resiliency in the third, hoping to maintain their undefeated streak at McKeon. Saint Mary's looked to be back in form, completing a 5-0 run in the set to put them up 21-14.

However, they wouldn't be able to maintain their lead due to an offensive arsenal that San Diego unleashed, allowing them to regain control with a 22-20 lead, and ultimately lose the match.

Two days later, the Gaels would have a chance to redeem themselves, as they would welcome the Cougars of Brigham Young University for a much-anticipated matchup at McKeon.

The two teams definitely lived up to the hype and delivered one of the season's most exciting matches

to date, with the Gaels recording their most impressive win in recent memory as they staged a remarkable comeback against the 19th ranked team in the nation.

Saint Mary's fell behind early, trailing two sets to none. While nightmares of another sweep began to come into fruition, the Gaels would spark a miraculous comeback, fueled by a strong team effort led by senior Jordan Shaw that pushed the match to a fifth and decisive set.

The Gaels would go on to win two straight sets themselves to place them right back into the match.

The fifth set was the most intense set endured this season, as the fans of McKeon roared in the stands, hoping to see their team accomplish the upset.

After falling behind early in the match, Saint Mary's would continue its momentum that it had generated in the previous two sets.

From there on out, the Gaels would take the lead and not look back, as senior outside hitter Kristina Graven would put the nail in the coffin, recording a kill that would give the Gaels the set, and ultimately the match.

"It was probably the greatest match I've been a part of at Saint Mary's," said senior Jordan Shaw, who recorded one of her most impressive games as a Gael with 27 kills, 22 digs, and a .350 hitting percentage. "We were just so determined. We didn't want to give up. We knew we were going to win that game the entire time."

Next, the Gaels will travel to Pacific for a match against the Tigers on Thursday, Oct. 31. The match is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

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